

Appl. No. 10/815,553  
Amendment dated 10/12/06

**Amendment to the Claims:**

1. (amended) ~~An~~ A quick-release attachment for ergonomically securing an air tank or canister to a paintball marker, the attachment comprising:

a first attachment piece formed on the paintball marker, the first attachment piece having a body portion by means of which it is secured to the paintball marker and a fastening portion,  
5 said first attachment piece being a ~~discrete~~ discrete component; and

a second attachment piece having a body portion by means of which it is secured to the air tank and a fastening portion, said second attachment piece being a ~~discrete~~ discrete component, whereby the fastening portion of the second attachment piece is configured to releasably engage with the fastening portion of the first attachment piece to secure the air tank  
10 substantially proximate to the base of the frame of the paintball marker; and

a quick-release tightening member securing the first attachment piece and the second attachment piece to each other when engaged with each other, the quick-release tightening member comprising a ball-and-detent structure between the first attachment piece and the second attachment piece, the ball engaging in the detent when the first attachment piece is fully engaged  
15 with the second attachment piece.

2. (original) An attachment as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first attachment piece is configured so as to be attachable to the frame of the paintball marker.

20 3. (original) An attachment as claimed in claim 2 wherein the first attachment piece is formed on an underside of the frame of the paintball marker.

4. (canceled)

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5. (original) An attachment as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first attachment piece is integral with the paintball marker, the body portion of the first attachment piece being an integral portion of the paintball marker.

5 6. (original) An attachment as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fastening portion on the first attachment piece comprises at least one rail, and the fastening portion on the second attachment piece comprises a corresponding rail which slidably engages on the rail of the first attachment piece.

10 7. (original) An attachment as claimed in claim 6 wherein the rail on the first attachment piece comprises a dovetail connection.

15 8. (original) An attachment as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first attachment piece and second attachment piece are elongate members, the first attachment piece being configured so as to cover a substantial portion of an underside of a frame on the paintball marker.

9. (original) An attachment as claimed in claim 6 wherein the corresponding rail on the second attachment portion comprises a pair of flanges for engaging the dovetail connection.

20 10. (canceled)

11. (original) An attachment as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second attachment piece is integral with the air tank, the body portion of the second attachment piece being comprised of the air tank.

25 12. (original) An attachment as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second attachment piece is located on a neck portion of the air tank, the air tank comprising the neck portion and a chamber portion.

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

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15. (canceled)

16. (original) An attachment as claimed in claim 4 wherein the first attachment piece comprises a plurality of apertures therein, and screws or bolts extend through the apertures and engage with the paintball marker to firmly secure the first attachment piece to the paintball marker.

17. (original) An attachment as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first attachment piece further comprises an elongate channel substantially centrally formed on an underside thereof.

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18. (original) An attachment as claimed in claim 2 wherein the first attachment piece and second attachment piece extend a distance beyond an end of the underside of the frame to form a projecting member.

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19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (amended) An A quick-release attachment for ergonomically securing an air tank or canister to a paintball marker, the attachment comprising:

a first attachment piece formed on the paintball marker, the first attachment piece being a discrete component having a fastening portion; and

a second attachment piece being a ~~discreet~~ discrete component having a fastening portion, the fastening portion of the second attachment piece being configured to releasably engage with the fastening portion of the first attachment piece to secure the air tank substantially proximate to the paintball marker; and

5       a quick-release tightening member securing the first attachment piece and the second attachment piece to each other when engaged with each other, the quick-release tightening member comprising a ball-and-detent structure between the first attachment piece and the second attachment piece, the ball engaging in the detent when the first attachment piece is fully engaged with the second attachment piece.

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22. (amended) A paintball marker comprising:

a body portion;

a first attachment piece formed on the body portion, the first attachment piece being a ~~discreet~~ discrete component having a fastening portion;

15       an air tank or canister which can be releasably secured to and removed from the body portion;

a second attachment piece formed on the air tank, the second attachment piece being a ~~discreet~~ discrete component having a fastening portion which is configured to releasably engage with the fastening portion of the first attachment piece to releasably secure the air tank substantially proximate to the body; and

20       a quick-release tightening member securing the first attachment piece and the second attachment piece to each other when engaged with each other, the quick-release tightening member comprising a ball-and-detent structure between the first attachment piece and the second attachment piece, the ball engaging in the detent when the first attachment piece is fully engaged with the second attachment piece.

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23. (original) A paintball marker as claimed in claim 22 wherein the fastening portions on the first attachment piece and second attachment piece comprise a pair of engagable rails.

5 24. (original) A paintball marker as claimed in claim 22 wherein the first attachment piece is formed on an underside of a frame on the body portion of the paintball marker.

25. (original) A paintball marker as claimed in claim 22 wherein the second attachment piece is formed on a neck of the air tank, the air tank having a neck and a chamber.

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26. (original) A paintball marker as claimed in claim 22 wherein the fastening portion on the first attachment piece comprises at least one projection or recess, the projection or recess being received by a corresponding recess or projection formed on the second attachment piece.

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27. (canceled)